Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DACCA 04841 161138Z

12
ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-07 FEA-01 CIAE-00

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 DODE-00

ERDA-05 /070 W
---------- 010338
R 161005Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2102
INFO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 4841

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, TECH, BG
SUBJ: BANGLADESH NUCLEAR PROGRAM AND NPT ADHERENCE

REF: A) DACCA 3886; B) IAEA VIENNA 7549

1. CHARGE AND POL COUNSELOR CALLED ON MFA AMERICAS DIRECTOR KAISER MURSHED SEPTEMBER 16 AND HAD OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE WITH HIM QUESTION OF BANGLADESH ACQUISITION OF RESEARCH REACTOR AND BDG'S ADHERENCE TO NPT.

2. MURSHED SAID HE WAS UPSET THAT OFFICIALS FROM BD ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION HAD GONE AS FAR AS THEY HAD IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE AMERICAN FIRM, GENERAL ATOMIC, FOR PURCHASE OF RESEARCH REACTOR WITHOUT CHECKING MORE FULLY WITH MFA. MURSHED RECOGNIZED USG REQUIREMENT FOR CLEAR INDICATION OF BDG ADERENCE TO NPT PRIOR TO REQUISITE BI-LATERAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN US AND BD AND ALSO NOTED NEED FOR SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT WITH IAEA. HE SAID THAT HE WAS NOW VVETTING ISSUE FOR MFA AND HAD TOLD BAEC THAT MORE COMPLETE INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION WAS NEEDED.

3. MURSHED DID NOT THINK FORMAL BDG ADHERENCE TO NPT WOULD COME SOONE AS ISSUE WAS POLICY MATTER WHICH MUST BE DECIDED ON HIGHEST LEVEL. HE ADDED THAT IF IT ADHERED
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PAGE 02 DACCA 04841 161138Z

BD WOULD BE FIRST OF SOUTH ASIAN COUNTRIES TO DO SO AND

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

THIS ALONE WOULD REQUIRE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION. HE ALSO
SAID THAT BDG WOULD WANT TO LOOK CAREFULLY AT BILATERAL
AGREEMENT AS CONDITIONS AGREED TO IN IT WOULD SET
PATTER FOR ANY FUTURE AGREEMENTS BD MADE WITH OTHER COUNTRIES
ON NUCLEAR MATTERS.

4. WE UNDERSTAND DR. INNAS ALI WILL SOON BE VISITING WASHING-
TON AND WILL WISH TO DISCUSS RESEARCH REACTOR AND RELATED
MATTERS WITH DEPARTMENT AND OTHERS. DEPARTMENT SHOULD
THEREFORE BE AWARE THAT SO FAR AS MFA IS CONCERNED HERE IS
STILL A LONG DISTANCE TO GO BEFORE RESEARCH REACTOR CAN BE
PACKED AND SHIPPED TO DACCA. HOW QUICKLY THAT DISTANCE
CAN BE COVERED IS UNCERTAIN BUT OUR ESTIMATE IS THAT IT WILL
TAKE SOME CONSIDERABLE TIME MORE.
CHESLAW

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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EO Systematic Review
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